

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Reef Fish - Harvest Regulations 2013 Greater Amberjack Commercial Trip Limit

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953, which allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set finfish seasons, R.S. 56:6(25)(a) and R.S. 56:326.3 which provide that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby declares:

The trip limit for the commercial harvest of greater amberjack in Louisiana state waters shall be 2,000 pounds whole weight. The 2,000 pound whole weight trip limit will remain in effect throughout the 2013 season for the commercial harvest of greater amberjack in Louisiana state waters.

The Commission also hereby grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to modify the commercial trip limits for greater amberjack described herein for Louisiana state waters if he is informed by NMFS that the trip limits for the commercial harvest of greater amberjack in the Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico as set out herein have been modified, and that NMFS requests that those trip limits be modified in Louisiana state waters, or as needed to effectively implement the provisions herein upon notification to the Chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. Such authority shall extend through January 31, 2014.

Effective with the provisions under this Emergency Rule, a vessel shall not possess on any trip, or sell, barter, trade, or exchange greater amberjack in excess of the designated 2,000 pound whole weight trip limit, regardless of where taken. Further, no person, shall purchase, barter, trade, or exchange from any person greater amberjack in excess of the 2000 pound whole weight trip limit. Greater amberjack may only be in possession during the open commercial season by legally licensed commercial fishermen.

Ann L. Taylor
Chairman